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MOSCOW COMMENTARY ON HAIG GEORGETOWN SPEECH

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LD071752 Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Washington, 7 Apr, TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig made a speech at the International and Strategic Studies Center of Georgetown University, that can only be described as an attempt to stem the anti-war movement which is gathering momentum in the United States.

As a matter of fact, the State Department made no secret of it. The newspaper the New York TIMES said that, according to an Assistant Secretary of State, by his speech Haig wanted to undermine the positions of those circles in the United States and Western Europe which advocate an early freezing of the nuclear armaments of the USSR and the USA. The same assistant added that Haig wanted to deal a "pre-emptive strike" to an article to be published in a new issue of FOREIGN AFFAIRS. In that article, four high-ranking officials of previous administrations -- former U.S. ambassador to the USSR George Kennan, former defence secretary Robert MacNamara, former presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy, and former director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Gerard Smith -- argue for the West to give up the first use of nuclear weapons.

Admitting in his statement that the Soviet Union is putting forward an idea about a commitment not to resort to the first use of nuclear weapons, Haig said that NATO has consistently turned down such Soviet proposals. He added that the policy of giving up the first use of nuclear weapons would spell an end to the policy of flexible response. In other words, the U.S. Secretary of State has actually admitted that the first use of nuclear weapons is the chief element of the "policy of flexible response" now elaborated in Washington.

Haig alleged that in the last 10 years the Soviet Union has adopted as armaments "an unprecedented quantity of new systems" and that over the same period the United States "has exercised restraint" adopting for armaments only the Trident missile and submarine and the cruise missile.

These assertions by the U.S. Secretary of State have nothing in common with reality. In the decade mentioned, the USA has replaced 550 Minuteman-I and Minuteman-II single-block missiles by Minuteman-III missiles with three warheads, and 496 Polaris A-II and Polaris-III ballistic missiles on 31 atomic submarines by the Poseidon C-3 missiles (with 16 missiles equipped with 10-14 warheads on each submarine).

New offensive missiles have been supplied for the strategic bomber fleet, as a result of which, during the seventies, without increasing the number of carriers, the possibilities of the strategic offensive forces of the USA in terms of delivering nuclear ammunition in one launch (flight) have doubled. One has to add to this the development of such most advanced weapons systems as the strategic cruise missiles of different types, as the "MX" intercontinental ballistic missile, the B-1 strategic bomber, the new warheads for the ballistic missiles, and many other things.

Leaving unresponded the latest Soviet constructive initiatives, the U.S. Secretary of State went out of his way to justify the U.S. desire to achieve a military superiority by deploying new American missiles in Western Europe.

He alleged that this NATO decision constituted a response to the deployment of a large number of Soviet SS-20 Soviet missiles. It is well-known, however, that already back in the fifties the USA deployed in Europe and in the adjacent seas nuclear weapons for hitting vital centres of the USSR and its allies. And it was only in the sixties that in response to that threat the Soviet Union was forced to deploy its missiles in the European part of the USSR.

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